

February 20, 1976

SENATOR DICKINSON: It has been my impression that when you ask the Departments if they need space, they are always going to say yes and they may, in fact, wind up using more space by making it available to them than they would if it were not so readily available.

SENATOR RUMERY: That will depend on what the Legislature does in appropriating funds.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you, Senator Rumery.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as you will notice on the Committee statement, I was the only one that voted against taking this out of the Committee and it has been explained why and I talked to Senator Rumery about it. The idea of a program statement not being attached seemed a little ridiculous to send somebody \$50,000 a year to let them go ahead and spend it any way, shape or form that they would see fit, but since I have talked to Senator Rumery and we have gone through this brochure that he passed out, I think that in his mind, and he can respond to this if he wishes, I think in his mind that was what was the program statement. I guess that I would have to be all honest with him and ask Senator Marvel or somebody to respond to other than what we received in the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee which does tell about square footage cost and so forth as to what a program statement is. Would Senator Marvel explain that to us please?

SENATOR MARVEL: The reference I would refer to you is LB 1048 of about two years ago. I guess you and I are carrying on a private conversation.

SENATOR BARNETT: And I can see the Lieutenant Governor is yawning up there, too, so.

SENATOR MARVEL: Anyway, it is my interpretation and understanding that before you can get state appropriations for any kind of a building in which state funds are involved, you have to have a program statement. That program statement is simple. What it asks for is the plans of the people who want the money, the plans as to how they are going to use the facilities, the program that is going to exist in the facilities. Now we argued this on the floor of the Legislature last year when we talked about the ten to fourteen million dollars for the Animal Science Building. We were overruled. They said you go ahead and appropriate the money and you get a plan later. That is not going to solve the problem in the future as far as capital construction is concerned. You have a plan that tells the taxpayers specifically what the building is going to be used for and this is supposed to be done before the money is appropriated. It is that simple and I think the law requires it and I still think that the money that was appropriated last time through capital construction for the...let's see, it was ten to fourteen million. Nobody